

by F.P.S. dealers and protests by vested groups and hence if the Court is of the view that it may not be possible or desirable to abolish the APL category altogether, it may consider limiting the APL category to households whose annual income is Rs. one lakh.

- (ii) Immediate identification of BPL and AAY families — to check exclusion of poor households.
- (iii) Elimination of bogus/fake cards by means of a door-to-door survey by a reputed agency—also collection of data for computerization.
- (iv) Zero tolerance—strengthening of the Enforcement Wing and Anti Hoarding Cell and making public servants engaged in PDS accountable—establishing flying squads to inspect the movement and distribution of food grains. Whenever a FPS is sealed because of some malpractice, its licence be straight-away suspended/revoked, Ration Card holders attached to that FPS could be transferred to the nearby FPS or mobile van to be put in service or a Kirana shop of the area already selected, could be entrusted temporarily to distribute PDS foodgrains.
- (v) Computerization—use of technology—computerization of the activity providing an end-to-end automated system involving minimum human intervention. This would involve automation of the interface between the FPS and the consumer on one hand and the FPS and the FSO on the other so as to make the functioning of the FPS's transparent.
- (vi) Establishment of a Helpline.
- (vii) E-banking — amounts towards transport charges and cost of foodgrains should be remitted by FPS by ECS instead of by way of bank draft and handing over to the Circle Inspector etc., thus avoiding paper work.
- (viii) Distribution of wheat flour on option basis instead of wheat to BPL households—strict provision to put in place to check that good quality of wheat meant for PDS is not replaced by sub-standard wheat by flourmills etc.—general instructions could be given to sell only the fortified 'atta' with essential nutrients before selling in the open marketing/PDS—this is to make the implementation easier in all respects and also for avoiding diversion and leakage.
- (ix) Ombudsman/Regulator—-independent agency to be created to monitor the working of the PDS—existing system is inactive and ineffective and corrupt.
- (x) Functions of the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation (DSCSC) to be taken over by the Department of Food and Civil Supplies—there is no Vigilance machinery or enforcement agency with the DSCSC to check diversion of food grains by the trucks engaged by the DSCSC—large scale diversion of foodgrains by these trucks.
- (xi) Food coupons—to begin with to be tried on a pilot basis in any two circles.
- (xii) Constitution and strengthening of Vigilance Committees at State/District Levels.
- (xiii) Strengthening the legal regime.
- (xiv) Streamlining the system of allotment of FPS licenses and steps for provision of reasonable commission to the FPS owners.
- (xv) Public awareness campaigns to be carried out to increase awareness among the

public about the functioning of the PDS—organizing PDS adalats in conjunction with Legal Aid Authorities—holding public meetings in circles/moholaas every two months—due publicity to be given—NGOs of repute to be associated.

- (xvi) To increase viability of FPS's, distribution of kerosene oil (though an equally discredited and corrupt system) by FPS's to be considered as is being done in Mumbai.
- (xvii) Putting up of prominent and visible boards at FPS shops and on the trucks carrying PDS.
- (xviii) Strict standard conditions for engaging the trucks to transport PDS food grain and also installing GPS on each and every truck engaged by the transporter—immediately as a truck carrying PDS food grain moves out from the FCI godown messages by SMS/fax/mobile phone/telephone call, to be passed on to Vigilance Committee, Member(s) of the area and FPS concerned for which the foodgrain is meant.
- (xix) To strictly follow and implement the Revised Model Citizens' Charter issued by the Department of Food & Public Distribution, Govt, of India and communicated by letter dated 30th July 2007 to the State Governments.
- (xx) Amnesty Scheme—four weeks time be given to persons holding bogus/fake cards to deposit the same with FPS/Circle Office—no questions asked. On verification by door-to-door survey if any bogus/fake card is found, prosecution be launched not only against the persons holding bogus/fake cards but also against the officers of the Department responsible for issuing bogus/fake cards—publicity to be given both by print/electronic media and also hoardings to be displayed at prominent places of the amnesty scheme.
- (xxi) Section 15A given unnecessary protection to public servants engaged in the distribution of PDS. The Section should be repealed. Without the actual connivance and participation of public servants in the PDS there cannot possibly be diversion of foodgrains.

Allocation of foodgrains to Jharkhand for BPL families

t 835. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total foodgrains allocated to Jharkhand for BPL families every year during the last three years;
- (b) the total foodgrains off took by the State Government out of allocated foodgrains;
- (c) whether the State Government has made any request to increase this allocation; and
- (d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) A Statement showing allocation and offtake of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in respect of BPL families in Jharkhand during the last three years *i.e.* 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is enclosed (*See below*).

(c) No Sir.

(d) Question does not arise in view of reply at (c) above.

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

*Allocation and Offtake of Foodgrains under TPDS of Jharkhand for the period
2004-2005 to 2006-2007*

(In thousand tons)

Year	Commodity	Allocation			Offtake		
		BPL	AYY BPL+AAY	Total	BPL	AYY BPL+AAY	Total
2004-2005	Rice	483.016	113.120	596.136	163.032	91.673	254.705
	Wheat	318.096	91.260	409.356	202.882	75.993	278.875
	Total	801.112	204.380	1,005.492	365.914	167.666	533.580
2005-2006	Rice	448.992	168.960	617.952	173.360	150.030	323.390
	Wheat	251.232	136.308	387.540	207.550	132.600	340.150
	Total	700.224	305.268	1,005.492	380.910	282.630	663.540
2006-2007	Rice	512.322	183.340	695.662	274.117	180.250	454.367
	Wheat	187.902	121.928	309.830	153.855	119.016	272.871
	Total	700.224	305.268	1,005.492	427.972	299.266	727.238

Reduction in quota of foodgrains to BPL families

836. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to reduce quota of foodgrains to BPL-families; and

(b) if so, the details of the quota of foodgrains being issued to BPL families at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

Effect of organized retail trading on price rise

837. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent past witnessed a steep increase of price;

(b) if so, the reasons there of and the measures taken by Government to help the consumers;

(c) whether it is a fact that this is the period of vast expansion in organized retail trading; and

(d) whether this increase in organized retail trading added momentum to the price rise?

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.